

English Vocab for the 2016-2017 School Year

#1 Identity

- a. the qualities, beliefs, or traits that make a person or group different from others
- b. Noun
- c. When I visited the town where my parents grew up, I felt more in touch with my identity than I ever have before.

#2 Self (n/a)

- a. The evaluation of oneself as an individual, regardless of social position or standing
- b. Noun
- c. It was not until I started reading other people's autobiographies that I started thinking about the "self" and how it related to me.

#3 Feeble

- a. Lacking in force or effectiveness; weak
- b. adjective
- c. My brother always gave feeble excuses for why he could not do homework each night.

#4 Opportunist

- a. a person who takes advantage of a situation for personal gain, often by ignoring whether it is the right or wrong thing to do
- b. noun
- c. Harry accused Kellen of being an opportunist after Kellen kept a ten-dollar bill he saw another kid drop on the ground.

#5 Ethical

- a. something that relates to moral principles or beliefs
- b. adjective
- c. The doctor was questioning what the ethical choice was when faced with a dying patient who was asking to cut off all medicine.

#6 Dilemma

- a. a difficult situation or problem, often with two equally undesirable solutions
- b. noun
- c. Bobby faced the dilemma after seeing his friend cheat on the exam.

#7 Commemorate

- a. to pay tribute to or show respect for someone or something in a ceremony
- b. Verb
- c. The Redskins commemorated the anniversary of their last Super Bowl win by bringing the players on that team to the field during halftime.

#8 Anecdote

- a. a short, amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person
- b. Noun
- c. When I started at a new school, I heard a lot of anecdotes from students about events from previous years there.

#9 Marked (“mark”)

- a. clearly noticeable or evident
- b. adjective
- c. There was a marked difference in the candidate’s debate performance after he received so much criticism in the first debate.

#10 Aloof

- a. Not friendly or warm; distant and detached
- b. adjective
- c. John was aloof at the party, choosing instead to play on his phone for most of the night.

#11: Defer

- a) To put off or delay
- b) Verb
- c) The person deferred admission to college for a year, so he started school in the Fall of 2011.

#12: Fester

- a) To rot or wither
- b) Verb
- c) The wound festered on Jim’s foot for weeks after he punctured it on a nail.

#13 Disheveled

- a) Untidy; messy (usually about a person's hair, clothing, or appearance)
- b) Adjective
- c) Cynthia looked completely disheveled as she arrived home from a very long day at work.

#14 Indifferent

- a) Having no particular interest or sympathy; unconcerned
- b) Adjective
- c) I watched the football game so I could be with my friends; I was indifferent about who would win the game.

#15 Rights

- a) freedoms that cannot be denied to any person
- b) noun
- c) "I know my rights, and I want a lawyer!" he said to the detective.

#16 Prejudice

- a) an opinion about a group, a race, or an individual
- b) noun
- c) The taxi driver was accused of prejudice when he ignored a Latino hailing a cab and picked up the white person standing right next to him instead.

#17 Eccentric (p. 10 -- TKAM)

- a. unusual; peculiar; unconventional
- b. adjective
- c. My neighbor is a bit eccentric; he owns twelve cats, only wears mismatched shoes, and talks with a British accent when he grew up in Missouri.

#18 Malevolent (p. 10 -- TKAM)

- a. having or showing a wish to do evil to others
- b. Adjective
- c. Professor Snape looked at Harry with a malevolent glare when Harry defeated Malfoy once again.

#19 Assuage (pronounced “uh-SAGE”) (p. 3 -- TKAM)

- a) to put an end to whatever bothered/worried you
- b) verb
- c) I assuaged my thirst when I bought myself a Gatorade.

#20 Fruitless (p. 43 -- TKAM)

- a) not achieving the desired results; useless
- b) adjective
- c) Despite having friends in the movie business, John’s pursuit of acting was ultimately fruitless.

#21 Inquisitive (p. 65 -- TKAM)

- a) Curious -- sometimes too curious
- b) Adjective
- c) My inquisitive friend always seemed to know who was going out with whom.

#22 Quibble

- a) To argue or bicker over something silly or unimportant
- b) Verb
- c) My siblings and I used to quibble over who could use the internet when we were younger.

#23 Disorderly (p. 113 -- TKAM)

- a) breaking down peaceful and law-abiding behavior; rowdy or unruly
- b) adverb
- c) The speaker attempted to subdue the loud and disorderly crowd.

#24 Indicative (p. 106)

- a) Pointing out or showing something
- b) Adjective
- c) The protests against the ban on refugees are indicative of the anger people feel about that rule.

#25 Erratically (p. 123)

- a) Unpredictably
- b) Adverb
- c) Since Jared was texting while driving, he was steering erratically.

#26 Vehemently (p. 127)

- a) In a passionate or intense manner; with great feeling
- b) Adverb
- c) I vehemently denied having stolen the gum; that is something I would never do.

#27 Tentative (p. 186)

- a) Unconfirmed; not certain or definite
- b) Adjective
- c) My fiancée and I set a tentative date for our wedding, but it is not set in stone.

#28 Infallible (p. 187)

- a) Never failing or wrong; perfect
- b) Adjective
- c) I have an infallible sense of direction; I don't even need to use my GPS.

#29 Formidable (p. 213 -- TKAM)

- a. inspiring fear or respect because of being strong, powerful, or talented at something
- b. adjective
- c. Muhammad Ali is considered one of the all-time greatest boxers because he defeated many formidable opponents.

#30 Elucidate (p. 213 -- TKAM)

- a. to make something clear; explain
- b. verb
- c. Mr. Abbas elucidated the new concept when he saw the confusion on his students' faces.